

05-19-21 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

PREPARED 05-03-21

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Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Virtual meeting via Zoom due to COVID19 restrictions  
Meeting ID 876 7779 9268, Passcode 161161

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Adoption of the Agenda

IV. Approval of the minutes for the April 21, 2021 meeting

V. Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)

VI. 2021 Action Items

- a) Refuse and Recycling Committee Report & Discussion
- b) LEED Committee Report & Discussion
- c) Non-Motorized Committee Report & Discussion

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 6:00pm via Zoom

IX. Adjournment

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## MINUTES (PREPARED 04-22-21)

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Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Virtual meeting via Zoom due to COVID19 restrictions  
Meeting ID 822 1724 2761, Passcode 161161

**I. Call to Order** *Chairperson Kelli Kazmier called the Environmental Commission meeting to order at 6:04 pm.*

#### **II. Roll Call**

**Present:** *Commissioner Monica Day, Commissioner Nicholas Haney, Commissioner Kelsey Heck Wood, Commissioner Bethany Hersha, Commissioner Kelli Kazmier, Commissioner Kevin Lund and Commissioner Jill Ramsey*

**Absent:** *None*

**Staff:** *Troy R White, City of Jackson Engineering*

#### **III. Adoption of the Agenda**

*Motion made by Commissioner Hersha and seconded by Commissioner Lund to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.*

#### **IV. Approval of the meeting minutes for 03-17-21**

*Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Ramsey to approve the minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.*

#### **V. Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)**

*None*

#### **VI. Jackson County Conservation District Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Proposal (Status Report by Troy R White)**

*Mr. White reported that the letter to City Council has been submitted to be included on the agenda for City Council's 05-11-21 meeting.*

## **VII. Presentation – City of Jackson Non-motorized Transportation Efforts**

*Mr. White made a presentation regarding the history of the non-motorized infrastructure within the City and the priorities for future improvements. The graphics used for the presentation are attached.*

## **VIII. 2021 Action Items.**

### **a) Non-Motorized Committee Report**

*Commissioner Day stated that, now that Mr. White has given the requested presentation, a committee meeting will be scheduled. Commissioner Day suggested that committee members review the Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan that was finalized in 2020.*

### **b) Refuse and Recycling Committee Report**

Commissioner Heck Wood presented the attached *Summary of Services in South Michigan Cities* regarding the costs and services offered for refuse and recycling services in neighboring peer communities.

Commissioner Ramsey inquired if there is precedent of the City of Jackson reaching out to other communities for ideas and input regarding how they transitioned to a single hauler system. She explained that she has recently discussed refuse pickup with an administrator with the City of Ann Arbor who offered ideas regarding breaking the City into different service area to the served by the different contractors, requiring contractors to hire cottage industry refuse collectors, and providing services to disadvantaged customers at a reduced cost.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the next month be used to continue to seek out more information and to consider strategies for putting the issue before City Council.

Commissioner Lund suggested that a report be provided to City Council to let them know what the Environmental Commission has been working on – perhaps a quarterly update.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that topical communication may be more effective than a regularly scheduled report. Perhaps the submittal of Commissioner Heck Wood's *Summary* would provide a means of introducing the topic of refuse and recycling to City Council.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the Commission request or invite a Councilmember to participate in the work of the Commission as a means of bridging the gap between the Council and the Commission.

Commissioner Haney suggested that correspondence to Council make reference to the Environmental Action Plan.

Mr. White suggested that the issue at hand is how to communicate with City Council as much as refuse collection and recycling.

Commissioner Ramsey suggested that questions the Commission has for City Council are about the scope of mandate and what Council would like to see from the Commission.

Commissioner Hersha stated that the Commission is an independent entity that brings initiatives forward to City Council rather than seeks direction from City Council.

Commissioner Kazmier stated that there is a difference between the initiatives of the Commission and the strategy to bring them initiatives to City Council and that it would be good if there was a template for communication and interaction with City Council.

Commissioner Kazmier stated that her understanding of the discussion can be summarized as: there is hesitation to move forward until the communication process is understood. She suggested that an invitation be extended to the City Manager to discuss 1) process, 2) inform him of the Commission's current initiatives and 3) to receive feedback.

There was consensus that Commissioner Kazmier's summary of the discussion was accurate.

Commissioner Kazmier stated that she will generate a draft memo regarding refuse and recycling and will include an invitation for a Councilmember to attend meetings of the Environmental Commission.

**c) LEED Committee Report**

Commissioner Lund reported that his inquiries over the last month indicate that there are only two cities in Michigan that are LEED certified – Ann Arbor and Royal Oak.

Commissioner Lund reported that he has become aware of a grant opportunity that would fund a review of LEED certification requirements and the generation of a plan to obtain certification. The grant is offered by a bank and is made to 20 to 30 cities across the country per year. Royal Oak was a recipient of this grant.

Commissioner Lund reported that he has communicated with Julie Lyons Bricker, Grants Coordinator/Energy and Sustainability Manager for the City of Royal Oak. He reported that Ms. Lyons Bricker is willing to meet with the Commission to discuss Royal Oak's experience in obtaining LEED certification.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that a list be compiled of questions that Commissioners may have for Ms. Lyons Bricker.

Commissioner Day stated that she is curious about the role of green infrastructure in LEED certification and what improvements had to be made to qualify – particularly with respect to gray water.

Commissioner Day stated that she is also curious about the role transportation infrastructure plays in LEED certification.

Other questions / inquiries:

Did Royal Oak have a staff position designated to work on LEED?

Did Royal Oak encounter unexpected challenges?

Having been through the process – was it worth it?

Had you known then what you know now, would you have pursued the LEED certification?

Is Royal Oak continuing to work on LEED improvements?

How important was the grant to Royal Oak in pursuing LEED certification?

What did Royal Oak learn about their community from the LEED process?

Was their buy-in from Royal Oak's business community?

Are there other funding sources for pursuing LEED certification?

Commissioner Lund will compile a list of inquiries and transmit them to Ms. Lyons Bricker before our next meeting.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that a list of inquiries for the City Manager be compiled for our next meeting as well. She asked that questions for the City Manager be submitted to her before 04-30-21.

## **IX. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Heck Wood thanked Commissioners Haney and Ramsey for their service and wished them well.

Commissioner Ramsey thanked the other commissioners for their efforts and said she has confidence in their ability to make a difference.

Commissioner Haney reported that his next endeavor will be working on an invasive species project in the Waterloo area.

Commissioner Hersha stated, referring refuse and recycling project, that a map that shows the various routes of all of the current haulers would make for a useful map in showing the duplication of services and the traffic.

## **X. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 6:00pm via Zoom**

## **XI. Adjournment**

*Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioners Haney and Ramsey to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:24 pm.*